

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady,

There is no better example of our failure to invest in rebuilding and renewing America than today's closure of more than 100 structurally deficient bridges in Mississippi.¹ Mississippi residents now have fewer options to move freely and their options will only decrease with inaction from the federal government. Structurally deficient bridges are not unique to Mississippi; there are more than 50,000 structurally deficient bridges in the United States carrying 188 million trips every day. The Ways and Means Committee has an obligation to do our part to advance legislation to ensure that our infrastructure needs are adequately met.

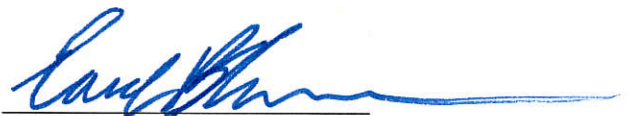
Despite decades of documented evidence of underinvestment, the Ways and Means Committee has only held one hearing on infrastructure funding and financing in more than seven years. In that time, the United States' global competitiveness on infrastructure has declined and the costs of maintaining a good state of repair have grown.

We urge you to hold immediate hearings to examine funding and financing proposals that have the potential to restore the state of our crumbling infrastructure. It is past time to reassert the Ways and Means Committee's role and commit to an infrastructure system that is second to none.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

¹ *Wall Street Journal*: Mississippi Gov. Bryant Orders More Than 100 Bridges Closed
(<http://www.wsj.com/articles/mississippi-gov-bryant-orders-more-than-100-bridges-closed-1523541600>)